

BOROUGH OF BRIDGWATER

ANNUAL REPORT

----- of the -----

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR 1952.

R. H. WATSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

BOROUGH OF BRIDGWATER.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1952.

Health Department,
Albert Street,
Bridgwater.

July, 1953.

To:-

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Bridgwater.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough and the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1952. The health of the community has been satisfactory, there being no major epidemics of illness, apart from an outbreak of influenza in the earlier part of the year, which although widespread, was of short duration and caused no great interference with services. No doubt treatment with the latest antibiotics helped to prevent many of the complications associated with earlier outbreaks of this disease and which were responsible for so many deaths. Nevertheless, this outbreak took its toll of the older members of the community.

The Crude Death Rate was 13.20 as compared with 14.11 for 1951. The Corrected Death Rate was 12.67, and the Provisional Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.3. The chief causes of death were heart disease 111 and cancer 57 out of a total of 308 deaths.

The Infant Mortality Rate for 1952 was 27.50, as compared with 19.47 the previous year.

The Crude Birth Rate was 17.14 in 1952 as compared with 19.16 the previous year. The Corrected Birth Rate was 16.80, and the Provisional Figure for England and Wales was 15.30.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R.H. WATSON.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (Acres).	2,082.873
Population (Registrar General's estimate) 1952.	23,340
No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1952	6,296
Rateable value on 31st December, 1952.	£142,011
Sum represented by 1d rate on 31st December, 1952. £	570

Live Births.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	186	202	388
Illegitimate	8	4	12
	<u>194</u>	<u>206</u>	<u>400</u>

<u>Birth Rate</u> per 1,000 of estimated resident population	17.14
Corrected Birth Rate	16.80
Comparative figure for England and Wales	15.3
<u>Still Births</u>	10
<u>Still Birth Rate</u> per 1,000 total (live & still) births	24.39
<u>Death Rate.</u> Total number of deaths	308
<u>Death Rate</u> per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.20
Corrected Death Rate	12.67
Comparative figure for England and Wales	11.3

Infantile Mortality (Deaths of infants under one year of age)

Legitimate	10
Illegitimate	1
	<u>11</u>

Rate of all infants per 1,000 births	27.50
Rate for all legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	25.77
Rate for all illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	83.33

VITAL STATISTICS

Births.

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures show that there were 400 births (194 boys and 206 girls) in the Borough during 1952, being 25 births less than in 1951. Of these births 12 were illegitimate. This is 3% of the total live births, as compared with 3.8% in 1951.

The Crude Birth Rate was 17.14 and when corrected it was 16.80. As a comparison the Birth Rate for 160 Smaller Towns (Population 25,000 - 50,000) supplied by the Registrar General was 15.5.

Birth Rates for Bridgwater and for 160 Smaller Towns (Population 25,000 - 50,000) for the past six years were as follows:-

Year	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
160 Smaller Towns	22.2	19.2	18.0	16.7	16.7	15.5
Bridgwater	26.61	20.37	20.89	18.07	19.16	17.14

Deaths.

After correction for transferable deaths, the number of deaths in Bridgwater was 308 (145 males and 163 females). This is five less than the previous year and gives a Crude Death Rate of 13.20, which when corrected to make it comparable with other districts was 12.67. In comparison the Registrar General's figure for 160 Smaller Towns (population 25,000 - 50,000) shows a Death Rate of 11.2

There were 190 deaths in persons over the age of 70 years. The primary cause of death was heart disease (111) and cancer was second (57). Both these conditions appear to be increasing, although the increase is more apparent than real, due to better methods of diagnosis and to the ageing of the population. Nevertheless, there seems little doubt that the stress and strain of modern life on the one hand, and fear which prevents people seeking early treatment for cancer on the other, are factors of considerable importance. With modern methods of treatment, many cases of cancer can be completely cured if treatment is instituted at an early stage.

The Crude Death Rate for the past 10 years is as follows :-

1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
12.65	13.57	13.30	12.93	12.48	12.42	13.19	12.77	14.11	13.20

Causes of Death during 1952 - See Schedule on Page 11.

Infantile Mortality.

After correcting for transferable deaths, eleven children under the age of one year died during 1952. The Infantile Mortality Rate was 27.50 as compared with the Infantile Mortality Rate for 160 Smaller Towns (population 25,000 - 50,000) which was 25.80.

Of the infant deaths, 7 occurred in infants under 4 weeks old, giving a Neonatal Mortality Rate of 17.5 per 1,000 live births. 5 of the deaths were due to causes present at birth.

The following table gives details of the causes of death and the age of death :-

Infantile Mortality during 1952.

Causes of death	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks.	3-4 wks.	1-6 mths.	6-12 mths.
Bronchopneumonia	1				
Prematurity	2				
Convulsions		1			
Spina Bifida	1				
Respiratory failure	1				
Syncope				1	
Hydrocephalus				1	
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1				
Ruptured meningocele				1	

Inquests.

13 inquests were held by the Coroner in the Borough during the year. Of these, 6 were upon residents of the town, and 7 on non-residents. In addition 5 were held elsewhere on persons normally resident in the Borough.

The causes of death recorded at inquests upon residents of the Borough are set out as follows :-

Cause of death.	Male.	Female.	<u>TOTAL.</u>
Accidents, due to falls outside the home.	1	-	1
Road accidents.	-	3	3
Suicide.	1	-	1
Drowning.	1	-	1

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens are sent to the Laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum of delay and there is good liaison between the laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

Hospitals.

Hospitals in the area are administered by the South West Regional Hospital Board, through the Bridgwater Area Management Committee.

The Hospitals are:-

Bridgwater General Hospital...	72 beds.
Mary Stanley Nursing Home	25 beds.
Northgate Lodge...	60 beds.

Cases of infectious diseases needing hospital treatment or isolation are admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Midwives Ante-Natal Clinics are held each Monday and Wednesday afternoon from 2.00 - 4.30 p.m., at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater. On the afternoon of the first Monday and Wednesday of each month a Medical Officer attends and blood samples are taken from expectant mothers for determination of Rhesus Factor, Blood Grouping, etc. The Clinics are staffed by midwives and Health Visitors and the opportunity is therefore taken of acquainting the expectant mother not only with the midwife who will attend her at her confinement, but also with the Health Visitor who will be visiting her in her home, and advising her on the care of her baby. Much valuable educational work is carried out at these clinics.

Infant Welfare Clinics.

The Health Centre, Mount Street.	Tuesday, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. Friday, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.
The Church Hall, Bath Road Estate.	2nd and 4th Thursday in month, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

Arrangements are being considered for opening an Infant Welfare Clinic at Hamp Estate.

Breast Feeding Clinic.

The Health Centre, Mount Street.	Friday, 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon.
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Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic.

The Health Centre, Mount Street.	Friday, 11.00 a.m.
The Church Hall, Bath Road Estate.	2nd and 4th Thursday in month, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

School Clinic.

A doctor attends a school clinic each Monday morning from 10.00 a.m., at the Health Centre, Mount Street, and school nurses attend minor ailment clinics at the Health Centre, from 9.00 to 11.00 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Minor ailment clinics are also held at Hamp Junior School on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 9.30 a.m., and at Bath Road Junior School on the same days. This arrangement of holding nurses' clinics in the more distant schools has much to commend it when adequate facilities are available.

Other clinics held at the Health Centre, Mount Street, include:-

Chest Clinic.	Tuesday A.M., and Wednesday all day.
Orthopaedic Clinic.	Monday and Thursday all day.
Speech Therapy Clinic.	Friday all day.
Child Guidance Clinic.	Monday P.M. and Tuesday A.M.
Breathing Exercises Clinic.	Wednesday P.M.
Artificial Sunlight Clinic.	Tuesday P.M. and Saturday A.M.

Friarn Street Day Nursery.

This Nursery, administered by the County Council, is available for children aged 9 months to 5 years. A list of

priorities has been drawn up by the Council and a local admission committee decides which applications should be admitted. Admission is granted mainly either on economic grounds, or in cases of unsatisfactory housing conditions. Accommodation is available for 30 children and the average daily attendance during 1952 was approximately 24.

Ambulance Service.

An Ambulance and Hospital Car service is provided by the County Council through the Agency of Voluntary Organisations. The local headquarters is at 7, West Street, Bridgwater.

Home Help Service.

The Service is run by the County Council with local administration by a Home Helps Organiser, with an office in the Health Centre, Mount Street.

Number of Home Helps as at 31.12.52 :-

{a}	Full-time	28.
{b}	Part-time	32.

Number of cases who received help during 1952:-

{a}	Acute sick	35
{b}	Chronic sick	57
{c}	Maternity	45

National Assistance Act, 1948.

A number of cases were brought to the notice of the Health Department, and in all cases it was possible to make satisfactory arrangements for the welfare of the persons concerned, without removing them from their homes.

Borough Mortuary.

15 Post mortem examinations were carried out at the Borough Mortuary during 1952. This compares with 13 in the previous year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Disposal of Refuse.

Refuse is disposed of by the controlled tipping method in a clay pit situated off Bristol Road. The existing pit is nearly filled up and a new tipping site has been acquired at Bath Road. This is a disused clay pit, which always holds water, and it will be essential that the pit be kept clear of this water if satisfactory tipping is to be carried out and nuisance avoided.

Disinfestation.

Disinfestation of bedding and clothing is carried out at a steam disinfector plant situated at the old Isolation Hospital at the docks. The plant is worn out and dangerous and a new plant is to be installed in a more convenient location at the Council's yard, at Wembdon Road.

Water Supplies.

Regular bacteriological examinations have been made of both the raw water and the water going into supply.

Water Supplies (continued).

Results were as follows :-

Ashford Reservoir.

Untreated water. Four samples were examined, all of which showed evidence of contamination.

Water after treatment. Fourteen samples were examined, all of which gave excellent results.

Durleigh Reservoir.

Untreated water. Four samples were examined, all of which showed evidence of contamination.

Water after treatment. Ten samples were taken and all gave excellent results.

The whole of the Borough is supplied with water from the public mains. 5,100 houses representing a population of 23,340 have a piped water supply from the mains, and no houses are supplied from standpipes.

Extensions to the water system were confined to extensions to new housing estates.

Three samples of raw water were taken for chemical analysis, and all were reported as satisfactory.

Arrangements have been made to ensure that all persons working in connection with the water supply are medically examined before commencing their duties. All possible steps are taken to exclude carriers of the enteric groups of fevers.

Swimming Baths.

Supervision has been maintained over the condition of the water in the swimming baths. Chemicals are added by hand and while the method will ensure a satisfactory water as regards bacterial content, during the greater part of the time when the baths are in use, it is unreliable when there is a large influx of bathers, i.e. when it is most needed. Filtration of the water, which would be provided by a modern treatment plant is, of course, lacking in the present treatment.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The whole of the Borough is covered by main drainage, and the sewage is disposed of by being discharged untreated into the River Parrett. The Council's scheme for a new trunk sewer from the Sydenham Estate to the River Parrett, at an approximate cost of £92,000 has been approved by the Ministry.

Housing.

The erection of new houses has been accelerated as compared with the previous year, 198 houses including 63 private enterprise houses being completed, the corresponding figures for 1951 being 108 and 53.

	Houses erected during year.		Houses in course of erection.		Conversion to flats or dwellings.		Temporary such as Army Huts, etc.
	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	
Local Authority	135	-	151	-	-	-	-
Private Enterprise}	63	-	86	-	-	-	-
	198	-	237	-	-	-	-

Of 6,343 houses in the Borough, 2125 are owned by the Local Authority. The total number of post war houses completed is 1281, made up of 1,088 Local Authority and 193 Private Enterprise. The total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year was 1,138, and the building programme for 1953 provides for approximately 300 houses, 200 to be erected by the Council and 100 by Private Enterprise.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

The following particulars indicate the action taken under Part 1 of the Factories Act, 1937.

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	61	6	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	70	54	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	131	60	-	-

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable diseases that occurred in the Borough during 1952. The table is drawn up after making the necessary corrections in diagnosis by either the practitioners or the Medical Officers at the Isolation Hospitals.

Disease.	Cases notified.	
	1952.	1951.
Measles.	9	233
Scarlet Fever	34	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	2
Meningococcal Infection.	2	-
Dysentery	14	-
Whooping Cough	2	33
Pneumonia	5	5
Acute encephalitis	1	-
Erysipelas	2	-
Food poisoning	4	-
	77	278

Infantile Paralysis.

Although there was a moderate incidence of infantile paralysis in Somerset, no cases were notified in Bridgwater.

Diphtheria.

Children may be immunised by their family doctors, or at a special immunisation clinic which is held at the Health Centre, Mount Street, at 11.00 a.m., on every Friday, or at the Infant Welfare Clinic, which is held at the Church Hall, Bath Road Estate, in the afternoon of the second and fourth Thursday of the month.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table shows the number of children who completed a course of immunisation during the year:-

Aged under 5 years.	Aged 5 - 15 years.	TOTAL.
270	88	358

Tuberculosis.

There were 31 cases of respiratory and 3 cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis notified during the year. The figure for respiratory cases is 8 less than the previous year.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
No. of cases notified - Pulmonary	73	35	41	37	39	31
No. of cases notified - Non-Pulmonary	14	10	7	5	6	3
No. of deaths - Pulmonary	10	14	8	11	6	5
No. of deaths - Non-Pulmonary	6	-	-	2	-	-
Death rate of respiratory tuberculosis per 1,000 of population.	0.48	0.63	0.36	0.49	0.27	0.21

As a means of detecting early and unsuspected cases of tuberculosis, arrangements were made for the Mass Radiography Unit of the South West Regional Hospital Board to visit Bridgwater in September. The attendance was very satisfactory and the Unit visited the larger factories before being stationed at the Health Centre.

The survey was attended by 3,990 persons (2,360 males and 1,630 females). 124 were recalled for further examination: 82 of these were regarded as significant cases and on further investigation they were divided into 35 non-tuberculous and 47 tuberculous cases (13 active and 34 inactive).

Analysis of Tuberculous Cases

Tuberculous conditions.	Male.	Female.	TOTAL.	Disposal			
				N.A.	Dr.	Disp.	San.
<u>ACTIVE.</u>							
Primary Lesion							
Post-Primary unilateral	8	2	10			6	4
Post-Primary bilateral	3		3			1	2
Tuberculous pleural effusion.							
TOTAL	11	2	13			7	6

<u>Tuberculous Conditions.</u>	Male.	Female.	TOTAL.	Disposal			
				N.A.	Dr.	Disp.	San.
<u>Inactive.</u>							
Primary Lesion	1	8	9	6	2	1	
Post-Primary Lesion	17	8	25	15	5	5	
TOTAL	18	16	34	21	7	6	

N.A. = No action.

Dr. = Patient's own doctor.

Disp. = Under observation at Dispensary.

San. = Sanatorium treatment required.

Analysis of Tuberculous Cases.

AGE.	Under 15	15/24	25/34	35/44	45/59	60 & over	TOTAL
<u>Active Tuberculosis</u>							
Male	-	4	3	1	3	-	11
Female	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Total.	-	4	4	1	4		13

<u>Inactive Tuberculosis</u>							
Male	-	-	5	6	4	3	18
Female	3	4	1	1	3	4	16
Total.	3	4	6	7	7	7	34

Vaccination against Smallpox.

No cases of smallpox occurred in the Borough during 1952. 51 Primary vaccinations and 11 re-vaccinations against smallpox were carried out by private general practitioners during the year. The following table giving the age distribution of persons vaccinated shows that only 31 children under the age of 1 year received primary vaccination, while the number of live births for the year was 400.

Persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) in 1952.

Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over.	TOTALS.		
P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R
31	-	5	-	2	-	1	-

P = Primary vaccination.

R = Re-vaccination.

The proportion of the population vaccinated against smallpox has fallen very considerably since the inception of the National Health Service Act 1946, which repealed compulsory vaccination. This trend is to be regretted, as due to the increased facilities for international travelling, the risk of importation of the disease is greater, and all parents are advised to have their children vaccinated, preferably at about the age of 4 months.

Food Poisoning.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1952.

Cause of Death	M.	F.	Total.
All causes	145	163	308
1. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	4	1	5
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infection	1	-	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm of stomach	6	6	12
11. Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	6	4	10
12. Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	6	6
13. Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	17	28
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2
16. Diabetes	-	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	23	20	43
18. Coronary disease and angina	14	9	23
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	8	9
20. Other heart diseases	33	46	79
21. Other circulatory diseases	7	6	13
22. Influenza	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia	4	9	13
24. Bronchitis	6	3	9
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	1	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	3	2	5
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	2	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	2	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	11	21
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	3	3
34. All other accidents	4	1	5
35. Suicide	2	1	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-

ANNUAL REPORT OG THE CHIEF SANITARY
INSPECTOR FOR 1952.

To:-

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Bridgwater.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

Complaints.

During the year 165 complaints were received and dealt with under the Public Health or Housing Acts, and in addition there were 177 complaints of rat or mouse infestation. These figures are higher than those for 1951.

125 Preliminary Notices were served and 9 Statutory Notices. In no case was it necessary to take legal proceedings.

Housing.

186 houses were inspected for the purpose of having defects remedied whilst 9 houses were systematically inspected under the Housing Regulations. 2 Demolition Orders were made and 12 houses demolished, most of them as a result of informal action.

The inspection of accommodation occupied by applicants on the Housing Waiting List has entailed a considerable amount of work.

The Schedule at the end of the report gives the amount of repair work carried out, under notice, to existing houses. Difficulty is still being met in this respect owing to the high cost of repairs in relation to the income derived from the rents.

The number of houses found to be verminous was 10, an increase on the figure for 1951.

4 cases of overcrowding were abated during the year, a decrease of 8 as compared with 1951. Towards the end of the year a survey was carried out of houses most likely to be overcrowded. 165 houses were visited, but not one case of overcrowding was discovered. The number of cases known at the end of the year was 33 as compared with 36 at the end of 1951. The majority of these cases are in non parlour type Council houses whose permitted number is low and where the degree of overcrowding is very slight.

Infectious Disease.

Enquires are made in cases of notifiable disease and disinfection is carried out free of cost. In other cases a charge is made. The existing Steam Disinfector is worn out and plans and estimates have been approved to provide a new plant in a building to be erected at the North Street Depot.

Food.

The inspection of food and the premises in which it is prepared for sale or sold, is one of the most important duties of the Department. There is no Government Slaughterhouse in the Borough, but two private Slaughterhouses are used for the slaughter of pigs.

Regular visits have been maintained at food premises and the following table sets out the food condemned:-

Bacon	1 cwt. 90 lbs.
Beef	5 cwts. 62½ lbs.
Pork	1 cwt. 84½ lbs.
Wet Fish	2 cwts. 63 lbs.
Canned fish	111 tins.
Canned Ham	14 cwts. 8½ lbs.
Other Canned Meats	661 tins.
Canned Fruit	1,010 tins.
Canned Vegetables	631 tins.
Canned soups	293 tins.
Canned Milk	357 tins.
Pickles and Sauces	131 jars.
Jam	139 tins and jars.
Cheese	1 cwt. 12½ lbs.
Dried Fruit	56 lbs.
Mincemeat Base	15 cwts. 56 lbs.
Cat and Dog Foods	579 tins.
Other Foods	4 cwt. 9 lbs.

The survey of foodshops has been completed and more premises provided with a constant supply of hot water.

The number of firms retailing milk in the Borough is 23 and there are 12 dairies. This reduces the number of retail distributors by one.

The quantity of graded milk sold in the Borough is still increasing, there being 9 retailers selling Tuberculin Tested milk and 3 retailing Pastuerised Milk.

The number of samples of graded milk examined during the year was 103 with the following results:-

<u>Grade.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Not Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pastuerised.	60	2	62
Tuberculin Tested.	37	4	41
	<u>97</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>103</u>

Ice Cream.

The number of premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice cream is as follows:-

Registered for manufacture and sale.	1
Registered for sale.	<u>63</u>
	<u>64</u>

The amount of ice cream manufactured in the town has declined to a negligible amount whilst most of the ice cream retailed is prepacked.

80 samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, and these were graded as follows:-

Grade 1.	56
Grade 2.	19
Grade 3.	5
Grade 4.	Nil

These results are not quite as good as those obtained in 1951, but are a very great improvement on those returned for the years previous to that.

Swimming Baths.

The supervision of the condition of the water in the Public Swimming Baths has been carried out, and 84 visits were made for this purpose. At these visits tests for residual chlorine are carried out, and a standard of 0.5 p.p.m. of free Chlorine maintained.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

Two fully trained Rodent Operators are employed to carry out the destruction of rats. The sewers were treated half yearly and the refuse tip on 6 occasions. 470 dwelling houses, 8 Corporation properties, 25 agricultural properties, and 43 business premises were inspected during the year and 113 properties found to be infested 16 block control schemes were carried out.

Public Conveniences.

The new conveniences at Penel Orlieu were opened during the year, and the unsatisfactory urinal demolished. Work has commenced on the new conveniences at Taunton Road.

Staff.

There were no changes in Staff during the year. Mr. C.W. Richards, Additional Sanitary Inspector rendered excellent service, and the whole of the staff carried out their duties satisfactorily.

Summary.

Inspections made during the year.

General Sanitation:-

Water Supply	34
Drainage	213
Stable and Piggeries	7
Houses let in lodgings	1
Factories	61
Rats and Mice	175
Shops	156
Inns	13
Swimming Baths	84
Public Conveniences	188
Smoke	1
Miscellaneous	194

Housing:-

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	186
Visits paid to the above houses	681
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	9
Visits paid to the above houses	34
Houses inspected in connection with over-crowding	198
Visits paid to the above houses	203
Verminous premises inspected	23
Visits paid to the above premises	37
Miscellaneous	605

Infectious Disease:-

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	11
Visits re disinfection	30
Miscellaneous	2

Meat and Food Inspections:-

Visits to Slaughterhouses	22
Visits to Shops and Stalls	22
Visits to other premises for meat inspection	2
Visits to Butchers	54
Visits to Fishmongers and Poulterers	9
Visits to Grocers	217
Visits to Greengrocers and Fruiterers	2
Visits to Bakehouses	24
Visits to Fried Fish Shops	8
Visits to Dairies and Milkshops	20
Visits to Ice Cream premises	110
Visits to Restaurants and Catering Establishments	24
Visits to Food Preparing Premises	17
Miscellaneous	14
Visits to Market Stalls	64

Explosives:-

Visits in connection with explosives	70
Visits in connection with Petroleum Spirit	10

Work Done:-

Complaints investigated	165
Rat complaints investigated	177
Choked drains and sewers cleared	22
Drains relaid	2
Drains or sewers repaired	3
New drainage laid	27
Inspection chambers provided	6
Soil Vent Pipes repaired	2
Defective ceilings repaired	28
Defective chimneys repaired	4
Defective doors repaired	8
Defective eavessgutters and downpipes repaired	18
Defective firegrates and ranges repaired	16
Defective floors repaired	13
Defective flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	19
Defective plastering repaired	33
Defective roofs repaired	38
Defective scullery troughs repaired or renewed	5
Defective scullery wastepipes repaired	8
Defective staircases repaired	2
Defective urinals repaired	1
Defective walls repaired	25
Defective washhouses repaired	-
Defective washing coppers repaired	3
Defective water closets repaired	17
Defective windows repaired	34
Dampness remedied	8
Ceilings whitened	13
Rooms distempered or papered	15
Sashcords renewed	20
Hot water supply provided	3
Flushing cisterns provided	6
Lavatory basins provided	2
Scullery troughs provided	1

Urinals provided	1
Water closets provided	9
Additional windows or ventilators provided	2
Overcrowding abated	4
Verminous premises cleansed	10
Premises disinfested from rats or mice	113
Premises cleansed	1
Other nuisances abated	14
Shops Act forms provided	10
Water closets cleansed	9

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. K. LEAN.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

